

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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SECSTATE FOR CU PLEASE PASS SMITHSONIAN/RINZLER

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC HU

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

1. HUNGARIAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS HAS RECEIVED IMPRESSION FROM LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS THAT PAN AMERICAN HAS AGREED TO FUND TRAVEL COSTS OF HUNGARIAN PARTICIPANTS TO FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL ON BASIS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITHSONIAN. WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING ICR HAS AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION.

2. WHILE GIVING APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT, ICR OFFINOAL ENDREN OLGAR IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH DR. JAKOBSON, CONTINUED TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT FESTIVAL MIGHT NOT PRESENT HUNGARY IN THE BEST LIGHT AND ADMITTED THAT AS PRESENTED IN FILMS AND ESPECIALLY IN THE SMITHSONIAN'S "BROWN BOOK" THE FESTIVAL APPEARED "UNDIGNIFIED, EVEN VULGAR." HOWEVER, IN MR. POLGAR'S VIEW THE TOUR FOLLOW-IN THE FESTIVAL ITSELF IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROGRAM AND HELPS TO JUSTIFY HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS FESTIVAL.

3. POLGAR OFFERED TO BEGIN ORGANIZATION OF AUTHENTIC FOLKLORE PERFORMERS IN COOPERATION WITH SCHOLARS AND SUGGESTED DR. JAKOBSON RETURN TO BUDAPEST FOLLOWING VISITS TO BELGRADE OR PRAGUE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH ALL OF THEM TOGETHER.

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4. IT IS CLEAR THAT HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION HINGES ON THE

AMERICAN SIDES' ASSUMING ALL COSTS AND THAT THE ICR IS UNDER
THE IMPRESSION THAT PAN AMERICAN HAS AGREED TO COVER TRAVEL.
PLEASE CLARIFY ACTUAL STATUS OF SMITHSONIAN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH PAN ANF ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. AT THE SAME TIME INFORM BY DECEMBER 2 DR. JAKOBSON ON
POSSIBILITY OF HAVING FIVE ADDITIONAL PERFORMERS FROM YUGO-
SLAVIA. APPROVAL OF THIS INCREASE WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE
NEGOTIATIONS.

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